

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 130940Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1865
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6513

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LI
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S REMARKS ON SECRETARY'S MISSION

DAR PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

REF: MONROVIA 6508

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT SUNDAY A.M. SEPTEMBER 12 ASKED ALL LIBERIANS
TO PRAY THAT DAY AND THROUGHOUT THE WEEK FOR SUCCESS IN THE HIGHLY
"IMPORTANT MISSION OF DR. KISSINGER."

2. TOLBERT SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS OF ALL AFRICANS AT
THIS TIME WERE THE "OPPRESSED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE
SOUTHERN PORTION OF THIS ONE CONTINENT", AND THAT THE SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S TRIP WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY
WHICH ONE SEES INCREASING EVERY DAY.

3. TOLBERT'S REMARKS WERE MADE IN A BRIEF RELIGIOUS WELCOMING
CEREMONY AT MONROVIA'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT 0545
UPON SAFE RETURN OF LIBERIA'S FIRST LADY AND HER PARTY FROM
CHURCH CONVENTION IN TEXAS.

4. AT THE COMPLETION OF PRAYER THE AMBASSADOR THANKED
PRESIDENT TOLBERT FOR HIS THOUGHTFUL AND TIMELY
REMARKS AND TOLBERT REITERATED HIS DEEP CONCERN FOR THE
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SECRETARY'S MISSION AND EXPRESSED MORE OPTIMISM ABOUT

ITS POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING POSITIVE RESULTS THAN THE
QUOTED 50-50 CHANCES.

5. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION AT THE SAME OCCASION ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER SHERMAN TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT MINISTER
C. CECIL DENNIS, JR. HOPED TO GO TO LUSAKA AFTER SEEING
NYRERE IN TANZANIA TODAY (MONDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER) AND THAT
DENNIS AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF A
BRIEFING OR UPDATE BY THE SECRETARY IF THEIR SCHEDULES
COINCIDE THIS WEEK IN EITHER OF THE EAST AFRICAN CAPITALS.
I DID NOT HOLD OUT MUCH CONFIDENCE SUCH A MEETING COULD BE
ARRANGED NOTING THAT SECRETARY WOULD NOT BE ARRIVING IN
DAR-ES-SALAAM UNTIL TUESDAY EVENING AND WOULD
NECESSARILY BE HIGHLY PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH
PRESIDENT NYRERE. I DID INDICATE THAT I WOULD PASS ON THE
REQUEST FOR A MEETING HOWEVER.

6. COMMENTS: WHILE I CAN APPRECIATE HOW DIFFICULT THE
SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE WILL BE DURING THIS TIME IT WOULD SERVE
USG INTERESTS IF DENNIS COULD BE BRIEFED ESPECIALLY SINCE
IT APPEARS THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRAVELS MAY HAVE HIM OUT OF
THE COUNTRY DURING THE TIME OF TOLBERT STATE VISIT
WHICH BEGINS TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER.
CARTER

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